

Statement from Director Carrie Lopez

The critical mission of the Department of Consumer Affairs is to protect California's consumers. We are taking swift action to provide additional consumer protections through all of our boards, including the Board of Registered Nursing (BRN). We are seeking statutory changes to allow all DCA Boards and Bureaus that currently fingerprint new applicants to also require fingerprints from their existing licensees, adding staff to more closely scrutinize new applicants and those who seek to renew an existing license, and continue to work with the Department of Justice and the FBI to identify criminals and either deny licensure or, when appropriate, revoke licenses. In addition, I've directed the Board to require that all applicants for license renewal disclose any criminal convictions while BRN staff proposes emergency regulations to the Board to secure fingerprints from all of its licensees regardless of when their initial license was granted. This is the most effective, permanent way we can ensure boards and bureaus are made aware of criminal convictions of their licensees and I look forward continuing our work with the Legislature to make fingerprinting every licensed professional in California a reality.

-Carrie Lopez, California Department of Consumer Affairs